

Board of Public Education and Office of Public Instruction

Chapter 55 Joint Task Force

Work Session Expected Outcomes – January 30-31, 2012

Purpose

To review and revise the Administrative Rules of Montana (ARM) 10.55 Standards of Accreditation to align the standards with current innovative practice providing flexibility and ensuring quality education and accountability.

Charge

The Chapter 55 Joint Task Force shall provide to the state Superintendent and the BPE recommendations for amendments to ARM 10.55. Recommended amendments to ARM will comply with Montana Administrative Procedures Act (MAPA) rules for public hearing.

Superintendent Denise Juneau joined the Chapter 55 Task Force to thank these Montana educators for their commitment to Montana education and their willingness to make difficult and bold decisions. Superintendent Juneau asked the Task Force to consider the economic situation affecting Montana schools and communities. Superintendent Juneau asked the task force to carefully study the proposed recommendations of the Chapter 55 Standards of Accreditation through a realistic cost analysis lens. The State Superintendent expressed her appreciation for the time, expertise, and tireless effort of the Task Force.

By Tuesday afternoon, January 31, the Chapter 55 Joint Task Force will:

1. Share and consider comments from educators and the public;
Deputy Parman, Chapter 55 Task Force Co-Chair, asked members to share comments from constituents and the public. Several members' agreed with the Superintendent's concern about the current economic situation and the need for practicality with recommendations to revise the Chapter 55 Standards of Accreditation.
2. Determine draft recommendations using Consensus Process: Phase I;
The Chapter 55 Task Force met the end of January in Helena and made considerable progress. From this link you will have access to their most recent draft work.



Look for anything dated January 30-31, 2012. These documents will represent the most recent action taken by the Task Force. There is another meeting scheduled for Tuesday and Wednesday, February 28 and 29 at the Holiday Inn, downtown in Helena.

During the January work session, Deputy Superintendent Parman anticipated completing Admin. R. of Mont. Chapter 55 sections 10.55.701 through 717, and 10.55.901 through 10.55.910. The Task Force, guided by a spirit of common ground and a collaborative effort, made excellent progress and met the expectations set by Deputy Superintendent Parman. The Consensus process continues to work effectively and efficiently using: thumbs up; I can live with it; or thumbs down. Minority reports are encouraged by those Task Force members not in agreement with the decision.

At the January Chapter 55 work session, the Task Force discussed the proposed standards for teacher and school leader evaluation: Admin. R. of Mont. 10.55.701(4)(a)&(b), Dr. Bill McCaw, representing the Montana Council of Deans of Education, presented to the Task Force the MCDE recommendations for additions to the proposed rule language. These recommendations include:

ARM 10.55.701(5)(a) teaching standards

1. Modify Standard 2- Learning Differences: the teacher uses understanding of individual differences, diverse cultures, and communities, including American Indians and tribes in Montana, to ensure inclusive environments that enable each learner to meet high standards.
2. Add Standard 11- Indian Education: The teacher demonstrates understanding of and ability to integrate history, cultural heritage, and contemporary status of American Indians and tribes in Montana.

ARM 10.701(5)(b) administrator standards

3. Standard #4: Faculty, Family and Community Collaboration. A school administrator collaborates with faculty, families, and other community members, responds to diverse community interests and needs, including ~~Montana~~ American Indian communities in Montana, and mobilizes community resources in order to promote the success of all students.

The question the Task Force discussed is whether to integrate Indian Education throughout the teacher evaluation standards, or to include a specific standard to address Indian Education for All. The consensus decision of the Task Force was to consult with Montana Indian Education Association leadership and to revisit this issue at the February work session.



3. Call for TF volunteers to communicate with constituents and the public; Task Force members were encouraged to continue communicating with constituents and the public. The February meeting will begin with Task Force members sharing comments gathered from Montana education stakeholders.
4. Review updated talking points and Standards of Accreditation brochure; and These documents will be addressed during the February work session, and will be posted to the OPI website for public review.
5. Determine the next steps to complete the work of the Task Force. In preparation for the next work session, Task Force volunteers are serving on subcommittees to provide draft language for the February work session.

The Task Force will conclude its work in time to make its recommendation to Superintendent Juneau so that she can consider them and prepare her recommendation to the Board of Public Education (BPE) at their May 10 and 11 meeting. The BPE will then begin their regular process of considering rule and public input that could conclude with a final vote of the BPE as soon as September of 2012.

This schedule continues to afford opportunity for anyone to provide input to the process. Presently, those interested in submitting comments to the Task Force should use the link above, scroll to the bottom of the page, and share their thoughts through the electronic form on that web page.

The next work session is February 28-29, at the Holiday Inn Downtown, Helena.

